

(4) *Unrated carrier* means that a safety rating has not been assigned to the motor carrier by the FHWA.

[53 FR 50968, Dec. 19, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 40805, Aug. 16, 1991]

**§ 385.5 Safety fitness standard.**

The satisfactory safety rating is based on the degree of compliance with the safety fitness standard for motor carriers. To meet the safety fitness standard, the motor carrier shall demonstrate that it has adequate safety management controls in place, which function effectively to ensure acceptable compliance with applicable safety requirements to reduce the risk associated with:

- (a) Commercial driver's license standard violations (part 383),
- (b) Inadequate levels of financial responsibility (part 387),
- (c) The use of unqualified drivers (part 391),
- (d) Improper use and driving of motor vehicles (part 392),
- (e) Unsafe vehicles operating on the highways (part 393),
- (f) Failure to maintain accident registers and copies of accident reports (part 390),
- (g) The use of fatigued drivers (part 395),
- (h) Inadequate inspection, repair, and maintenance of vehicles (part 396),
- (i) Transportation of hazardous materials, driving and parking rule violations (part 397),
- (j) Violation of hazardous materials regulations (parts 170 through 177), and
- (k) Motor vehicle accidents and hazardous materials incidents.

[53 FR 50968, Dec. 19, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 33776, June 21, 1993]

**§ 385.7 Factors to be considered in determining a safety rating.**

The factors to be considered in determining the safety fitness and assigning a safety rating include information from safety reviews, compliance reviews and any other data. The factors may include all or some of the following:

- (a) Adequacy of safety management controls. The adequacy of controls may be questioned if their degree of formalization, automation, etc., is found to be substantially below the norm for

similar carriers. Violations, accidents or incidents substantially above the norm for similar carriers will be strong evidence that management controls are either inadequate or not functioning properly.

- (b) Frequency and severity of regulatory violations.

- (c) Frequency and severity of driver/vehicle regulatory violations identified in roadside inspections.

- (d) Number and frequency of out-of-service driver/vehicle violations.

- (e) Increase or decrease in similar types of regulatory violations discovered during safety or compliance reviews.

- (f) Frequency of accidents; hazardous materials incidents; accident rate per million miles; preventable accident rate per million miles; and other accident indicators; and whether these accident and incident indicators have improved or deteriorated over time.

- (g) The number and severity of violations of state safety rules, regulations, standards, and orders applicable to commercial motor vehicles and motor carrier safety that are compatible with Federal rules, regulations, standards, and orders.

[53 FR 50968, Dec. 19, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 33776, June 21, 1993]

**§ 385.9 Determination of a safety rating.**

Following a safety or compliance review of a motor carrier operation, the FHWA, using the factors prescribed in § 385.7, shall determine whether the present operations of the motor carrier are consistent with the safety fitness standard set forth in § 385.5, and assign a safety rating accordingly.

**§ 385.11 Notification of a safety rating.**

- (a) The FHWA shall provide written notification to the motor carrier of the assigned safety rating.

- (b) Notification of a "conditional" or "unsatisfactory" rating will include a list of those items for which immediate corrective action must be taken.

- (c) A notification of an "unsatisfactory" safety rating will also include a notice that the motor carrier will be subject to the provisions of § 385.13, which prohibit motor carriers rated "unsatisfactory" from transporting:

(1) Hazardous materials requiring placarding under part 172, subpart F, of this title; or

(2) 15 or more passengers, including the driver.

[56 FR 40806, Aug. 16, 1991]

**§ 385.13 Unsatisfactory safety rating—Prohibition on transportation of hazardous materials and passengers.**

(a)(1) A motor carrier that receives a safety rating from the Federal Highway Administration which is “unsatisfactory” shall have 45 calendar days from the effective date of that rating or from the date of notice of that rating, whichever is later, to take such action as may be necessary to improve such safety rating to “conditional” or “satisfactory.”

(2) *Prohibition on transportation.* After the last day of the 45-day period established pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section and until notification is issued pursuant to this part of either a “conditional” or “satisfactory” safety rating, a motor carrier rated “unsatisfactory” shall be prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle to transport—

(i) Hazardous materials for which vehicle placarding is required pursuant to this title; or

(ii) More than 15 passengers, including the driver.

(3) *Ineligibility for Federal Government transportation.* Any motor carrier that receives a safety rating of “unsatisfactory” shall be ineligible to contract or subcontract with any Federal agency for the transportation of—

(i) Hazardous materials for which vehicle placarding is required pursuant to this title; or

(ii) More than 15 passengers, including the driver.

(b) *Penalties.* Any motor carrier that operates commercial motor vehicles in violation of this section will be subject to the penalty provisions of 49 U.S.C. App. 1809 and 49 U.S.C. 521.

[56 FR 40806, Aug. 16, 1991]

**§ 385.15 Request for a change in a safety rating; facts and procedure.**

(a) A petition for review of a safety rating, where there are factual or procedural disputes, must list all issues in

dispute and be accompanied by any information or documents the motor carrier is relying upon as the basis for its petition.

(b)(1) The petition must be submitted to the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Field Operations, within 90 days of the date of notification of the assignment, or change, of a safety rating.

(2) Motor carriers affected by the provisions of § 385.13 should submit their petitions and supporting documentation to the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Field Operations, within 15 days from the date of notification of the assignment of a safety rating.

(c) As part of the consideration of a petition, the Director, Office of Motor Carrier Field Operations, may request the motor carrier to submit additional data and attend a conference to discuss the safety rating. Failure to provide such data or to attend the conference may result in dismissal of the petition.

(d) The Director, Office of Motor Carrier Field Operations, shall notify the motor carrier in writing of a decision on a petition for review of a safety rating, which will constitute the final agency action. The decision may:

(1) Confirm the rating; or

(2) Revise the rating.

[56 FR 40806, Aug. 16, 1991]

**§ 385.17 Request for a change in a safety rating; corrective action taken.**

(a) A request for a change in a safety rating may be made when the basis for the change is evidence that corrective actions have been taken and that operations currently meet the safety fitness standard specified in § 385.5. The request shall be directed in writing, via certified mail, to the Regional Director of Motor Carriers for the FHWA Region in which the motor carrier maintains its principal place of business for safety. The Regional Office addresses are listed in § 390.27 of this subchapter. Such a request shall include a written description of corrective actions taken and other documentation that may be relied upon as a basis for improving the assigned rating.

(b) The FHWA will make its determination based upon documentation submitted or any additional investigation deemed necessary.